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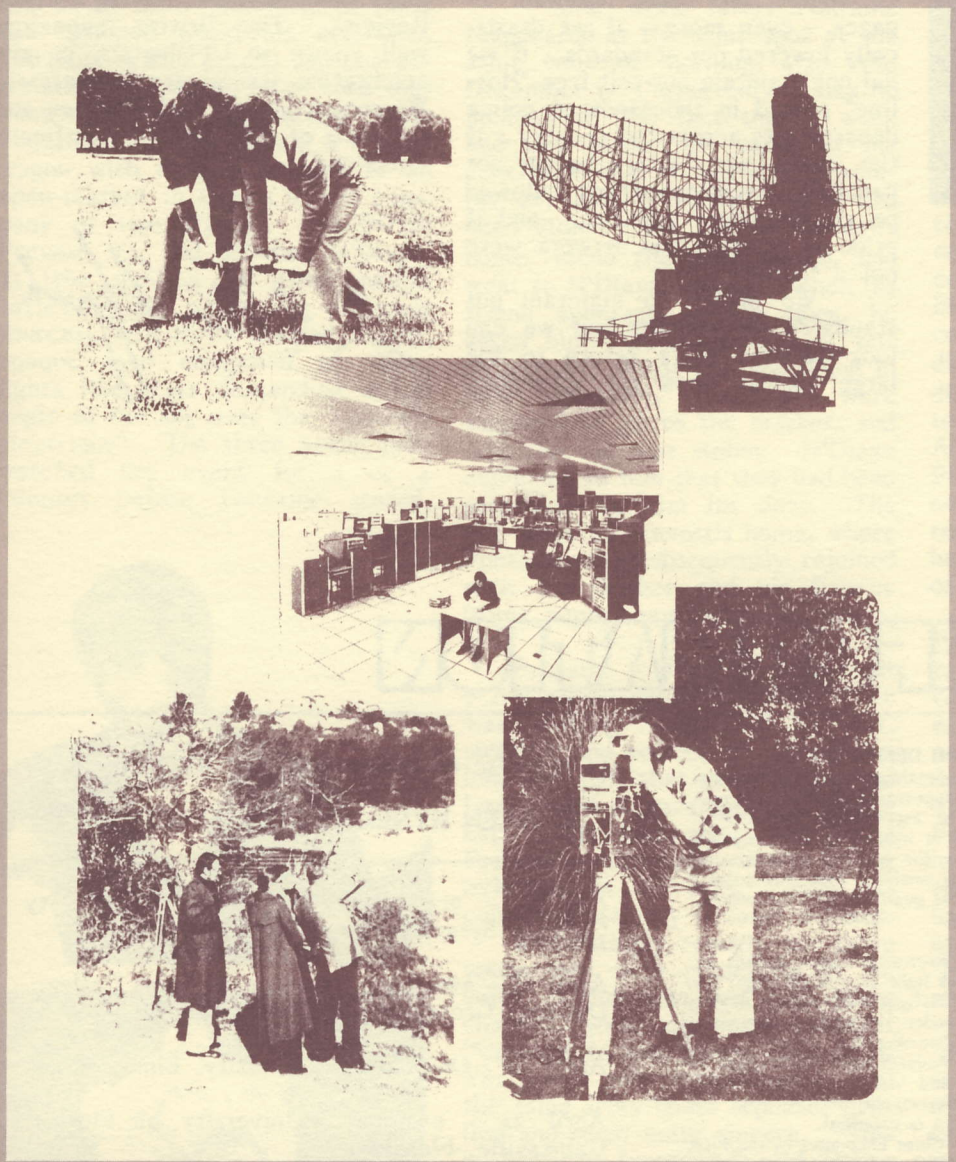


5 UFOS SELECTED FROM 186 U.S. CASES: Nov. 15 - Dec. 14

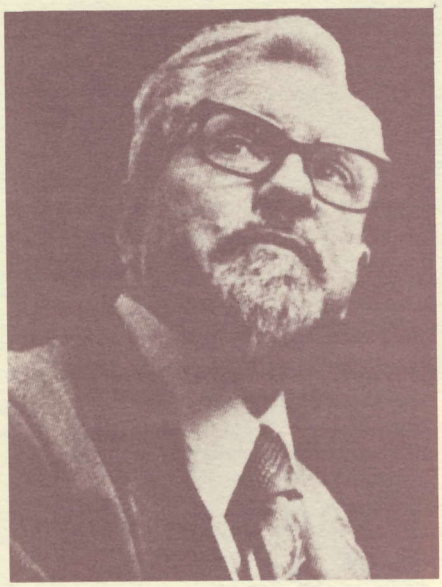
GEPAN UPDATE

FRENCH ABDUCTION

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON

COVER PHOTOS: The activity of France's GEPAN, a division of the French National Center for Space Studies

EDITORIAL



We have temporarily (I hope) returned to our original eight-page length, a format we used for 17 months when IUR was getting off the ground. The fact of the matter is that the 16-page format is a luxury which we cannot afford until our subscription income matches the cost of production. These cost-cuts are across the board, salaries included; our managing editor, Allan Hendry, will only be able to work for IUR on a part-time basis. Of course, we could maintain 16 pages - even more - if we drastically lowered our standards... if we did not maintain our toll-free "Hotline" posted in thousands of police departments across the country... if the cases we feature were not carefully investigated and followed up via secondary agencies... and if pride in printing and artwork were not a factor.

We prefer to maintain our standards for content and we can look forward to a return to the large format once our subscriber support warrants it. You can help by encouraging this support. If each IUR subscriber were responsible for just one new subscription from (or for) a friend, a library or a school, our objective would be at hand!

One of the most valuable and important holdings in the William Daniel Memorial Library at the Center for UFO Studies is a complete set of FSR (Flying Saucer Review). This British magazine, well known to UFOlogists, is now celebrating its Silver Anniversary. We congratulate Charles Bowen and the staff of FSR on this significant milestone.

J. Allen Hynek

BASIC INFORMATION

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Managing Editor: Allan Hendry

HOW WE LEARN OF UFOS:
UFO reports reach us from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of U.S. law enforcement agencies, FAA facilities, planetaria and other formal channels. It gives us the chance to follow up important cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include:

- pre-screening of practical joke calls,
- immediate summarized descriptions for every sighting, and
- the encouragement of police UFO witnesses to call in.

HOW WE DEFINE UFOS:
Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearances and/or behaviors can't be ascribed to conventional natural or man-made sources - not only for the original witnesses but also for analysts who may possess technical qualifications the witnesses lack.

NL - Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous light seen in the night sky.
DD - Daylight Disc: distant objects seen under daylight conditions - often disc-shaped.
RV - Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously - good agreement between the two accounts is essential.
CE I - Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFO seen within 500 feet.
CE II - Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that influence the environment - includes physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic (EM) interferences
CE III - Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I or II associated with creatures, humanoids or robots ("UFOnauts").

In response to reader requests, IUR presents:

J. ALLEN HYNEK'S LECTURE SCHEDULE

Apr. 9 - 7:30 PM - Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, New York

April 14 - afternoon - George Williams College, Downers Grove, Illinois

April 16 - Ohio State University, Lima, Ohio

April 24 - evening - University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

April 25 - evening - Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

May 1 - evening - North Texas State University, Denton, Texas

FOREIGN FORUM

NOTE: IUR cannot exert the same "first-hand" control over foreign cases as domestic ones. It is of value, at least, to compare the reported characteristics of the phenomenon abroad with those from the U.S.

FRENCH ABDUCTION: "TRAVIS WALTON" STYLE

TYPE: CE III (?)
DATE: 11-26-79
TIME: 4:30 AM
DURATION: several minutes
WITNESSES: 3
PLACE: Cergy-Pontoise, France
SOURCE: several domestic and foreign newspaper accounts

The abduction case arising from this small town northwest of Paris has attained worldwide attention, yet most of the details are characteristically lost to the conscious memory of the abductee. Frank Fontaine, 19, was loading a station wagon with clothes to take to an open-market in Gisors in the company of two friends, Jean-Pierre Prevost, 25, and Salomon N'Diaye, 25 (the spelling of these names varies slightly among the different sources). All three noticed a long, opaque trail composed of white lights like stars descending at an angle in the sky over the "centrale electrique". The three young men watched the event for 3 or 4 minutes before Fontaine stated, "I'm going there, I want to know." Prevost and N'Diaye rushed home to find a camera.

Frank Fontaine, France's newest abduction claimant

When they returned, they saw a remarkable sight: the car was located 200 meters further along on the road and was surrounded by a halo of light like a "thick mist". Three or four small "spheres" could be seen moving about within it. Fontaine was not in the car. Then the luminous mist shot upwards toward the sky, leaving the car behind.

One week later, Fontaine reappeared at the same spot at the same time of morning, 4:30 AM, December 3. Purportedly having no memory of the fact that a week had just passed, he came to the conclusion that it was still November 26, and his station wagon had been stolen. He ran to Prevost's home, found the door closed, and went to N'Diaye's house. When his friend appeared at the door, he asked him, "Qu'est-ce que tu fait en pyjama? (What are you doing in your pyjamas?)," that they were supposed to go to the market, and that the car was stolen. N'Diaye explained to him that they had been searching for him for days. The two went to Prevost's home, where Fontaine was subsequently rejoined with his mother and his fiancee (some papers say "friend") Marina, 21.

Fontaine told the gendarmes at 7 AM all he could remember. He was moving along in his car, stopped, and noticed on his right a luminous ball that grew larger and larger until it enveloped the entire car. The last thing the young Frenchman remembered was strong irritation in his eyes, Then his conscious memory became a blank.

Interestingly enough, the three young men were presented to the court at Pontoise and risk being charged with criminal mischief ("outrage to the forces of order"). Yet police note that all three tell the same story under repeated grilling and seem quite sincere. "This is just too fantastic," said Police Chief Roger Courcous following their testimony. Yet he found himself hard-pressed to conclude that the the three were making up a story just to obtain some attention. "That could only bring them grief," he told the French press, "and they seem to be perfectly conscientious."

When Fontaine reappeared, he was:

- dressed in the same unrumpled clothes
- clean-shaven
- neither hungry nor thirsty
- carrying the same sum of money on his person (100F)
- and had no mud on his shoes or clothes.

Of great interest here is the role GEPAN, France's official government UFO agency, might play in an exotic case like this. One press account has Fontaine describing his meeting with GEPAN personnel as follows: "Yesterday, they came. I proposed speaking at length about it, but they left saying they were tired. 'Alors, le GEPAN, ca va comme ca.'" Yet other press accounts speak of GEPAN taking blood samples and passing a Geiger counter over Fontaine's clothes (as did the gendarmes at the site of his disappearance). In a recent letter to IUR from GEPAN's director, Alain Esterle, we learned that GEPAN had not come to any hard conclusions yet, but without stating reasons, Esterle indicated that he had reservations about the validity of the case.

What about hypnotic regression? Prevot underwent it, and told the same details he consciously recalled, but Fontaine has refused the experience. "If I speak under hypnosis, all will be divulged, and I don't want that all be divulged. There is enough of that story." Pressed further, Fontaine said that he wanted some guarantees from the State that he would not be harassed as they had already been by some members of the press. "For the moment, that which is in my memory, I keep for myself."

What was earlier termed an "anonymous" phone call to a radio station by the press, tipping them off to the reappearance of Fontaine, turned out to have been made by his friend N'Diaye. He insists that he gave his full name and address to the station but they didn't take note of it.

"When I sleep, it all comes back to me, but it's not a nightmare," Fontaine told reporters... "it's special."

U.S. SIGHTINGS

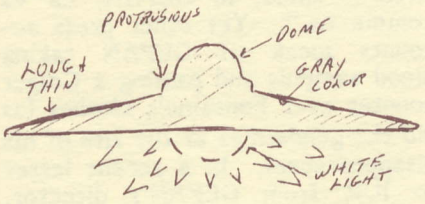
NOTE: IUR routinely affords confidentiality to all reporting witnesses. Witness names are withheld from print unless the news media have already released them, or the case is important enough to warrant seeking permission.

5 UFOS SELECTED FROM 186 U.S. CASES: Nov. 15 - Dec. 14

ALABAMA SAUCER

CASE NO.: 5-1-1
TYPE: NL
DATE: 11-15-79
TIME: 9 PM
DURATION: 6 min.
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Gadsden, Alabama

Two boys, ages 14 and 15, claim to have seen the domed saucer sketched here with an angular size 1-1/2 times larger than the moon (3/4°) and an estimated size of a small house. It approached them



from the south until it was an estimated 300 yards away and 250 yards up. The light underneath was so bright that the outline of the whole form was plainly revealed by it. It approached the witnesses from the south and executed a U-turn before coming directly overhead; thus, the boys never saw the shape of the object except in direct profile as drawn. As it flew slowly southward again, however, it would "bump" up and down "30 feet" occasionally; "we could not see how a human could stand such a sudden movement up and down," they stated. They also couldn't understand how the craft could land on the ground since the light was so physically large on the underside. No legs could be seen. The saucer flew silently and horizontally out of sight in the clear southern sky.

The two boys profess indifference toward the UFO subject, though they claim to have had a sighting previous to this one. One of the boys professed to have developed a headache as the object approached; this gave him the impetus to "communicate mentally" with the saucer -- with no results.

A FLYING TREE IN NEW YORK?

CASE NO.: 5-1-2
TYPE: CE I
DATE: 11-17-79
TIME: 2:30 PM
DURATION: 5 sec.
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Pound Ridge, NY

A lone 13-year old boy was walking home from school through a clearing in a forested area when he spotted what looked like a solid, 3-foot tall green maple tree surrounded by an "electric" glow. It was stationary for 3 seconds only 12 feet from him; then it shot straight up into the clear sky, changing from green to red. No noise was heard, no trace was left on the ground. No other reports from the area.

CONNECTICUT CIGAR

CASE NO.: 5-1-3
TYPE: DD
DATE: 11-27-79
TIME: 4:25 PM
DURATION: 8 min.
WITNESSES: 7
PLACE: Norwich, Connecticut

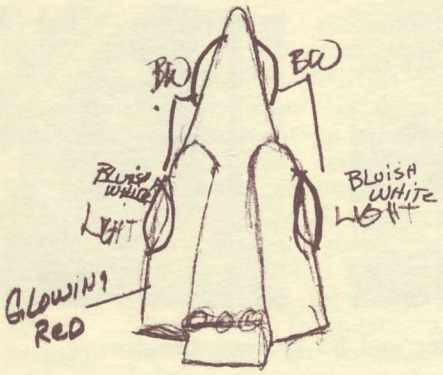
This case, investigated by Lawrence Fawcett for IUR, received some press attention in the area. Yvette Godfrey, 26, the assistant manager of the Slimtique Figure Spa in Norwich's Barker Shopping Plaza spotted the cigar-shaped form depicted below out her window to the SW. Other women at the spa were called over to see it as it hovered directly over the Norwich Sheraton Motor Inn, 1/4-mile away. It appeared to be positioned about 30 feet above the "SHERATON" sign atop the six-story structure, tilted at a 45° angle. All agreed that the cigar seemed to be as long as the space between the "H" and the "O" in the sign (inclusive). Fawcett learned that the sign was 57 feet long, so if the UFO was truly above the sign, it would have been 42 feet long and (roughly) 15 feet wide. At any rate, the angular size at that distance was appreciable: about 1/2" at arm's length. The pinkish-white, fuzzily-outlined cigar (some said "football") then moved a little further to the south - still tipped over at an angle - and stopped for a minute. Witnesses outside could hear no noise from it. Then it turned west and headed off into the clouds.

No insights were gained into the sighting one way or the other when Fawcett and John Beach checked with Tweed-New Haven Airport, local ad plane companies, the Goodyear blimp staff, Otis Air Force Base, the National Guard and the U.S. Weather Service. The Sheraton staff seemed to be unaware of the event until the story appeared in the newspaper; no power outages were noted. It wasn't the moon.

SIX DAYS LATER IN CONNECTICUT

CASE NO.: 5-1-4
TYPE: CE I
DATE: 12-4-79
TIME: 5 PM
DURATION: 5 min.
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: West Willington, Connecticut

Driving north on Rt. 32 through a fairly rural area, a 25-year old store owner and a 17-year old female passenger spotted what looked like an illuminated football-shaped "cloud" hovering low over the trees to the north, banking and turning slowly. Proceeding past the intersection at Rt. 44, he pulled off the



road a tenth-mile ahead, parallel to the object which was now on his left side. The shape could now be resolved as sketched via the lights on its surface: 3 white ones on top, two white lights on the sides, and a red and a green light on the bottom. The rear of this bicylindrical form revealed 2 round red glowing holes. It was seen to hover over the Connecticut Light and Power poles which are 300 feet from the road; the object appeared to be "3 pole lengths" (180') above the 60' pole. In angular size, the "massive" UFO was 6 times longer than the full moon, for an estimated size of 60' by 40'. While hovering, an intense blue light could be seen from front to back. When it banked right and left, a red glow could be seen 3/4 of the way along its cylindrical sides. Finally, it moved south slowly and silently and was seen against a 450' mountain located a mile away. The witnesses spun around in their car and tried to follow it but lost it.

COLORADO UFO - HEAD-ON?

CASE NO.: 5-I-5
TYPE: DD
DATE: 12-6-79
TIME: 6:29 AM
DURATION: 5 sec.
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Pagosa Springs, Colorado

A 31-year old deputy sheriff of Archuleta County in the company of his 12-year old stepson was driving west on 160 when he saw what looked like an aircraft light in the clear blue sky. The light seemed orange/gold in color, positioned in the western sky about 25° over the distant mountain range. At first glance, it had the angular size of a star but it quickly grew to the size of a fuzzy full moon in 2-3 seconds, with even greater brilliance. Then, still holding its position it vanished without a sound.

There is always the chance that something like this could be a meteor rushing through the atmosphere along the deputy's line of sight -- a rare occurence in itself. No other reports from the area.

TWO THAT GOT AWAY

ILLINOIS "CE III"

IUR took an interest in a case that happened in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, especially since it involved a complex scenario with humanoid UFOnauts in an area densely populated with single family dwellings. On August 29 at 10 PM, a 47-year old housewife professed to have seen the lower corner of a gigantic "mothership" out her living room window. The "blimp"-like UFO was so huge that she could not see the full extent of its height or length as it extended down the whole block of houses at treetop level. Four different kinds of 3-foot humanoids could be seen through the hull, itself entirely luminous and yellow in color.

The catch is this: despite the fact that the "mothership" filled the whole sky at treetop level in front of the driveway for 45 minutes, and seven different creatures all performed antics around the front of the house, neither of her two high-school age children playing on the driveway saw anything happen... nor did they hear the loud "humming" and "roaring" sounds the UFO supposedly made as it flew directly over the small house. Adding to the prospect that this was some kind of unusual hallucination, the witness noted that everything she saw had an unusual "animated cartoon" quality to it all.

All three people (including Hynek and Hendry) who met with the woman agreed she seemed very sincere and articulate, relating the event in every possible detail. It all serves, of course, to increase the premium we place on multiple-witness events.

RALEIGH "RADAR/VISUAL"

IUR was tipped off by a Delta pilot about the sighting of a bright light by the pilots of a Lear jet and two other planes; it took place over South Carolina last November 11 (the same date as the Spanish airline incident) at 6:15 PM. We submitted a Freedom of Information request for the tape recorded conversations between the pilots and a radar controller at the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center who confirmed seeing it on radar. We also asked for a computer printout (Track Analysis Program) showing (at least) the geographical location of the planes.

Problems. First, our request came at a time when the Washington Center was troubled (and preoccupied) by computer outages and a near mid-air collision. Our routine request to speak with the controller involved got downplayed to leaving our phone number for him to call us back; he never did. The tapes we requested got accidentally put back into service and, thus, erased. We did receive a copy of the Facility Operation log which allowed us to track down one of the witnesses, the pilot of a private business flight going from New York to Ft. Lauderdale. What he saw from his twin-engine Sabrepilot merely looked (to him and the co-pilot) like a high-altitude plane with an unusually intense white strobe. He was flying southbound at 43,000'; the light was higher still, perhaps at 70,000', flying in a straight path from the west directky over his plane in 15 seconds. The radar controller directed the pilot where to look by radar; the fact that he even knew its ground speed (450-475 knots) led the pilot to conclude that it was some kind of secret military flight. We can't find out what the Lear jet pilot knows because the FAA has no listing for his flight number - N713Q - as listed in the ARTCC logs.

MORE CASES FROM THIS PERIOD NEXT ISSUE.

GEPAN

FRANCE'S OFFICIAL UFO AGENCY

by J. Allen Hynek

Claude Poher, GEPAN's founder and its current director, Alain Esterle

Even GEPAN director Dr. Alain Esterle admits he does not know what train of circumstances made it possible for France to be the only country to have an officially recognized, professional, and (even more important) well-funded program for the serious scientific study of the UFO phenomenon. Was it the traditional intellectual curiosity of the French, or simply that the right people were at the right places at the right time? Certainly it didn't happen here in the United States even though the President requested it. He asked NASA to undertake such a task but NASA politely declined. In France, the CNES (Centre Nationale d'Etude Spatiales - their equivalent to our NASA) established GEPAN (Groupe d'Etudes des Phenomenes Aerospatiaux Nonidentifies) in 1977 to do precisely that. They obtained for that new group the cooperation of the national police (Gendarmerie), the military and various government and civilian agencies, and access to the facilities of these organizations and to those of CNES itself.

Why the great difference in attitude and approach, here and in France? The UFO phenomenon is essentially identical in the two countries, and presumably because of our larger size, we have more UFO sighting reports; yet it is France that takes the scientific lead, while the U.S. exhibits only official apathy and scorn. But it is not "all roses"in France, either. GEPAN has its detractors even among some French UFO groups who fear another "Condon Commission" whitewash. There is little indication of this so far, however, and private conversations with Dr. Esterle in this country and during the Brazilian UFO conference of Oct. 27-30, 1979 all point to a strictly scientific approach to the investigation of UFOs.

Consider the differences between GEPAN's set-up and the late American effort: there are seven working groups involved, under the immediate and full-time direction of a concerned scientist, Dr. Alain Esterle, a young and vigorous mathematician and engineer. All the work of GEPAN in turn is under the frequent review of a board of scientists, including specialists in astronomy, plasma physics, atmospheric physics, high energy physics, meteorology, geodesy, and psychology. The GEPAN budget also allows for the consulting services of other disciplines where applicable.

How does GEPAN go about investigating a case? The manner depends, of course, on the nature of the case and the way in which they learn of it. Like CUFOS, GEPAN obtains many of its original reports from the police, the French Gendarmerie. The officers have been notified to inform GEPAN immediately in the event of a Close Encounter report, especially when there are several witnesses and physical traces. In such cases, the first GEPAN group, the "fast action" group composed of several investigative specialists, goes into gear. If physical traces are reported, a second "sampling group" goes along for the express purpose of taking samples in a meticulously proper way. This group is also responsible for laboratory follow-through, using biological labs for affected vegetation, chemical labs for soil analysis, and so on. If radar observations are involved, the "radar alert" group is contacted by either the "fast action" group or by an air traffic controller.

If the case is of less urgency, such as a single witness case or a distant sighting, then the report moves through Gendarmerie channels differently, coming to the attention of GEPAN sometimes weeks later. In all cases, however, early or late, a fourth group, the "expertise" group, is involved. They analyze, code and classify the 100-200 reports transmitted to GEPAN's Toulouse headquarters each month. Naturally, most of them will be IFOs; GEPAN uses a four-level classification scheme based on the level of confidence and information at hand:

- Type A - definitely IFO
- Type B - probably IFO
- Type C - probably UFO
- Type D - definitely UFO.

GEPAN has been using my familiar six-category system on a temporary basis for the type "D" reports on a temporary basis until they can adopt a more comprehensive classification based on actual characteristics rather than the circumstances of the observation. This was the subject of considerable discussion at the August, 1979, BUFORA conference on UFO classification which I attended in Britain; it was concluded that much more work is needed before a truly viable system can be universally adopted.

A question which immediately concerned GEPAN was whether type D cases corresponded to - and arose from - real physical stimuli, or hallucinations... one might say, were they "outer space" or "inner space"? They have concluded that the stimuli for the type D reports are indeed real and remain unidentified. On the basis of detailed examination of important past cases, no known natural phenomenon or man-made device can explain in a satisfactory manner the often disturbing characteristics of UFOs.

Furthermore, type D represents better than 20% of the reports they receive; it would be difficult to assess whether this figure is higher than IUR's UFO percentage because of differences in report content or differences in report judgment.

When an individual case is considered, investigators go to the site and review the details with the Gendarmerie, checking for consistency. They then formulate a program of action "on location" with conditions as close to the original as possible (such as time of day). The witnesses are interviewed separately, with the events of the sighting reconstructed. Durations are rechecked, distances are measured. The investigators first tape the witnesses' comments without interference, then question them for features they didn't discuss on their own.

It is here that use is made (when possible) of a clever "simulation" device developed independently by an optical group in GEPAN. Through one eyepiece of a binocular mechanism, one sees the landscape where the event occurred; through the other, he sees a selected UFO image. The witness can now position the UFO image against the landscape and move it about, permitting apparent sizes and speeds to be accurately reconstructed and recorded without recourse to verbal descriptions. This adds a whole new dimension to UFO case investigation.

GEPAN has developed a simple transmission grating device which can be slipped over a camera lens exactly as one affixes a light filter. If the light source is bright enough, the spectrum of the light can be photographed. If all goes well, one could have a photograph of the source on one frame and its spectrum on the next. These devices have been purchased in quantity by the Gendarmerie - more evidence of the serious intent of the French police here. At the present time, however, no member of the Gendarmerie has submitted such desired photos. A useable spectrogram of an unidentifiable light source would go a long way toward discovering its nature.

Furthermore, simple theodolites are available by which angles of altitude and azimuth can be measured. The witness himself is guided in the use of the theodolite. Linear sizes can be derived from angular sizes only when the distance is known.

If all has gone well to this point, a professional psychologist interviews the witnesses to evaluate their personalities and to help establish a credibility rating for the original report. All the while, the results of these investigations have been coordinated with information from the local weather bureau, airport and military bases. If report coherency is established - which GEPAN tells us is true in the majority of cases - then GEPAN attempts to answer the most fundamental question facing UFOlogy: did what the witnesses say happened, happen in in the way they said it happened? All other questions - theories of UFO origins, "propulsion systems", nature of UFOnauts, purposes of UFO interaction with mankind - become meaningless if no satisfactory answer can be obtained to this question. Personal discussion with Dr. Esterle made it amply clear that he and GEPAN have this constantly in mind.

If the objectivity of the UFO report has been established with a high degree of probability, the next question is, of course, whether a natural explanation can be found. By this stage, obvious misidentifications of stars, planes and balloons have been eliminated.

It is not GEPAN's attitude to give up on the problem if it is established, case after case, that a natural explanation is not possible in our present scientific framework. Instead, they intend to go as far as they can with present facilities and knowledge. GEPAN is still in the first stages of investigation of this problem, stages that do not exist in other sciences. One does not have to give astronomers or biologists psychological tests to see whether they are exaggerating or lying.

In recognition of the problems standing in the way of methodical UFO study, GEPAN hopes to develop the concept of "research packages", challenging other research groups in France and elsewhere, "we have the data -- what can you do about it?". It is one of GEPAN's long-range goals to contract with other laboratories and institutions to study various aspects of the phenomenon. It is anticipated that several Ph.D. theses can come out of this work.

Critics see bureaucracy as the enemy of the proper research work of GEPAN, however. Some fear that interesting cases of a military nature will be submitted to other channels instead of GEPAN, as happened in the U.S. during Project Blue Book. Others hold that really rapid action by GEPAN is impossible bacause of lack of good communications between the group and the Gendarmerie. There are complaints that GEPAN's scientific advisors know little about the UFO problem and will devote only 10% of their time to it. The feared result is that this governmental group will only serve a public relations need, like Blue Book. Dr. Esterle tends to make short shrift of these negative ideas.

Esterle is not happy, however,

SURE TO BE CONTROVERSIAL:

GEPAN's conclusion that the famous McMinnville UFO photos probably were hoaxed! The reason: if you insert the two images in a 3-D grid system, the UFO appears to be swinging like a pendulum with radii that intersect an overhead wire (not seen in these cropped photos).

with some of the "leaks" from an official internal report which came to the attention of American UFO groups, one of which was printed by IUR (see the Oct./Nov. 1978 issue). This particular summary translated one of GEPAN's conclusions to be that "behind the overall phenomenon there is a 'flying 'machine' whose modes of sustenance and propulsion are beyond our knowledge". Dr. Esterle provided the correct translation, pointing out that the report merely stated that UFO reports describe such a machine, not that GEPAN has come to that conclusion. GEPAN has come to some conclusions, but about procedures only. One is that one must wait patiently for a better knowledge of the phenomenon itself. It is possible that GEPAN may not realize the "full complexity and scope of the phenomena" and limit their approach to the problem, overlooking the "weirder" psychic aspects, for example. Dr. Esterle recognizes, as does CUFOS, that the start must at least be made with the purely physical aspects of the phenomenon, such as E-M effects, the effects on vegetation, animals and people, and semi-permanent markings left on the ground.

GEPAN has arrived at other procedural precautions: if one concedes the importance that the results of serious UFO investigation may have for the welfare of the human race, then it follows that such study must be done with great care and prudence. The public must not try to obtain quick answers and "revelations" about UFOs from the widespread, sensational popular press the motives of which are exclusively commercial. Dr. Esterle has stated that GEPAN's strategy will be dictated by the unfolding results of day-to-day research in three basic areas: physical, psychological/sociological and physiological. Attention to the paranormal and parapsychological aspects of the subject will be given as the evidence demands.

There are two remaining sections within GEPAN not yet mentioned: the "statistical" group and the "filing and coding" group. GEPAN realizes that data collected so far, properly coded and filed, constitutes a wealth of information amenable to statistical research, latent information which should not be filed away. While GEPAN has not yet developed as comprehensive a computer system as CUFOS's UFOCAT, they do code French cases in machine-retrievable form. As with CUFOS, a UFO library is maintained in GEPAN, available to serious researchers.

A pleasant, informal working relation between GEPAN and CUFOS has been established and it is hoped that CUFOS, despite its lack of formal funding, can be of assistance to them in their approach to the UFO enigma. We in the United States can sincerely hope that GEPAN will help to demonstrate the scientific, social and political impact of the UFO phenomenon worldwide.

STOP! CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE!

IUR has changed its system of sending out postcards to remind subscribers of their renewal dates. Check the date printed on the label; it shows the last issue you will receive in your current subscription.

Editor-in-Chief: J. Allen Hynek

Managing Editor: Allan Hendry

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